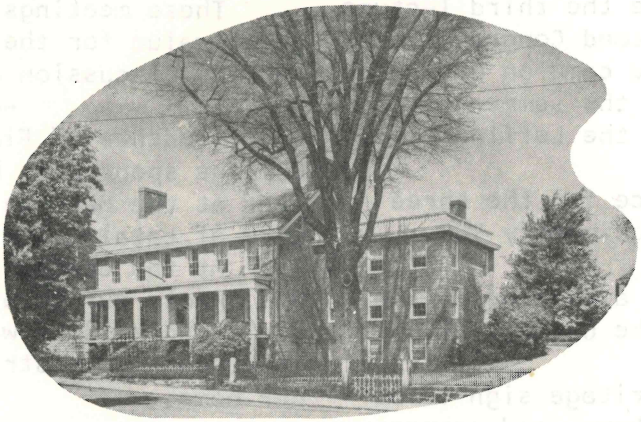
New London County Historical Society

11 Blinman Street SHAW MANSION New London, Conn.



Quarterly Bulletin

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ANNUAL MEETING

Mailed with this Bulletin is the announcement of our Annual Meeting to be held on Thursday, September 29th, together with a membership renewal blank.

It is important to have dinner reservations sent in promptly in order that arrangements may be made for all who wish to attend.

Following our Annual Meeting, we will have as our speaker, Mr. George White, President of the Eugene O'Neil Memorial Theatre Foundation.

RECEPTION FOR TEACHERS

The following invitation is being sent to members of the School Board, the School Superintendent and his staff, school principals, and Social Studies teachers:

"You are cordially invited by the New London County Historical Society to attend a reception to be held at the Shaw Mansion from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 28, 1966.

The local Society is very glad to do its part in furthering the first state-wide undertaking of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies which is:

A TWO-HOUR RECEPTION ALL OVER THE STATE ON THE SAME DAY, BY EVERY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, TO THE TEACHERS OF THEIR TOWN'S LOCAL HISTORY.

We are pleased to say that the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents has approved the League's plan, and that Superintendent Medeiros has given his very helpful support.

Date: Wednesday, September 28, 1966
Place: The Shaw Mansion, 11 Blinman Street, New London.

Program: Welcome, and "Brief Resume of New London's History."
Carlton F. Small, President, New London County Historical Society.

"The Merchant Class in Connecticut in the 18th Century."
Professor Philip H. Jordan, Member of the Dept. of History at Connecticut College.

Tour of the Mansion.

Refreshments."

ACTIVITIES SINCE THE LAST BULLETIN

Mr. Small gave a talk to the local Chapter of Veterans of World War I on June 12th. The subject was, "The Shaw Family."

The Lucretia Shaw Chapter of the D.A.R. gave a tea at the Shaw Mansion on June 21st to 133 ladies attending the S.A.R. Convention which was taking place at the Griswold Hotel.

ACTIVITIES (Cont'd)

Mr. Philip Johnson, President of the Founders of Norwich gave the third lecture in our series at the Second Congregational Church. About 40 people came on one of the hottest evenings of the summer to hear his illustrated talk on the Leffingwell Inn.

The total attendance for the three lectures given was approximately 300.

Mr. Small attended a meeting of the Heritage Committee of the Chamber of Commerce on July 13th.

A sample of the heritage sign to be used in this area was shown, and responsibility was given to the presidents of the societies represented to arrange dates with the local schools for giving heritage slide presentation.

On July 30th, the Connecticut League of Historical Societies held a meeting at Norfolk, Connecticut. Mr. Small was one of the panelists on the Round Table Discussion on the subject, "Things or Ideas -- What's Your Program?"

The motion picture on past events which we had renovated was shown to the Lions Club at the Mohican Hotel on August 2nd. Mr. Garvey manned the projector.

Two meetings of the Committee on Arrangements for the November Conference of the New England Historical Societies were held at the Mystic Seaport with Mr. Small present as a member.

At the present time, other members of our Society who have accepted duties in connection with the Conference are:

Mr. Laurens Attwill - to be Treasurer for the Conference.

Mr. Cecil Spicer - to gather information regarding motels and churches for the visitors.

Mrs. Attwill, Mrs. Spicer, Mrs. Lyman and Mrs. Small - to act as Registrars.

Mr. Dwight Lyman, President of the League, is Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements.

Further information regarding this event will be found elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The League held a meeting for presidents of member societies at the Statler Hotel, Hartford, on September 10th.

These meetings have proved to be of great value for the exchange of ideas, and the discussion of common problems.

Students of Fine Arts at Connecticut College spent many hours during the past year at the Mansion assisting with the work of cataloguing.

At the conclusion of their work, Mrs. Knox, our Curator, entertained the girls and Miss Hayward, their instructor in Museum Administration, with dinner at her home.

SURVEY OF ANTIQUES

We wish to express our great appreciation to Mr. Mayhew for his evaluation of the antiques in our possession in order that we may obtain adequeate insurance.

REPAIR OF THE GAZEBO

We are also very grateful to the New London Garden Club for their designation of funds for the repair and painting of the Gazebo. This is in addition to the work they have done on our garden plots.

NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

The Fourth Annual Conference of New England Historical Societies will be held at Mystic Seaport on November 5th and 6th. This year's sponsors are the American Association for State and Local History, the Connecticut League of Historical Societies, and the Marine Historical Association.

Saturday's sessions will include a panel on "The Need for and Use of Publications," and one on the publication of manuscript material. John J. Walklet, Jr., Director of Publications at Colonial Williamsburg will head the panel on manuscripts.

The Conference dinner will be held at the Seaport on Saturday evening. Sunday morning sessions will discuss the problems of exhibition of material, and community service to youth and adults.

(Continued)

CONFERENCE (Cont'd)

Registration is $4.00. Dinner is $6.00. Registration blanks may be obtained from Dwight C. Lyman, 10 Hall Avenue, New London, 06320.

OUR MISSION

No one wishes to belong to an organization that is not making effective progress toward worthwhile goals. As we look about us, we cannot but realize that the work of historical societies becomes more and more important, if American ideals of patriotism, integrity, self-reliance, respect for authority inherent in the family, the school, and government, and respect for private and public property are not to depart from the high level of our forefathers. Our children often are deprived, by the bestowing of lavish gifts, of the satisfaction and growth that comes from doing and earning.

What can our Society do? We can and do protect and preserve the abundance of mementos of our heritage that are kept within the walls of the Shaw Mansion; we can and do encourage people to come there with the belief that they will leave with renewed gratitude for and increased appreciation of the legacy handed to them from the past; we can and do cooperate with the teachers in our schools who are so closely associated with our young people; and we can and do work with our city in the effort to keep the dwindling historic sites that can mean so much to this and future generations. We are but a drop in this vast sea of our social structure, but it is the drops that make an ocean.

ACCESSIONS

Genealogy-John Robins of Lyme, by Mrs. J. H. Miller. Gift of Mrs. Miller.

Poems-"Life Pictures," by Olin Page, a New London poet. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Page.

Two samplers, an embroidered pillow cover, an embroidered antimacassar, and badges commenorating past events.
Gifts of Mr. and Mrs. E. Gorton Rogers.

A forty-four star American Flag.
Gift of Mr. Charles Smith.

A scrap-book with many local historical items. Gift of Miss Mildred Hall.

Two handmade quilts, one made by Comfort Williams, wife of George Williams, once Mayor of New London.
Gift of Miss Gladys Riddell.

Wedding dress of Satira Palmer, on her marraige to Frederick Mercer, 1887. Also accompanying gloves and handkerchief.
Gift of Mrs. Harold Wellington.

We wish, again, to express our thanks to the above donors.

A fund has been started for the purchase of an antique wing-chair for the long drawing-room.
Contributions welcomed.

Custodian in residence:
Mrs. Charles Menery
Corresponding Secretary and Curator:
Mrs. Adam Know
The Society's telephone number is:
443-1209